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SECURITY INFORMATION

German Democratic Republic

NON-FERROUS METALS CONFERENCE, VVB VESTA

[redacted] a meeting held at VVB VESTA (Federation of People-Owned Enterprises for Pig Iron, Steel, and Rolled Products), Leipzig, on 24 November 1950. Twenty-one plants were represented by 31 delegates; the meeting was arranged by the Ministry for Industry [NOTE: the Ministry for Industry has since been divided into Ministry for Heavy Industry and Ministry for Light Industry] for the specific purpose of discussing ways of conserving non-ferrous metals in the various VESTA plants. (From January to October 1950 the VESTA plants consumed approximately 156,000 tons of non-ferrous metals).

Troeger (fnu) of VESTA, leader of the discussion, makes a number of points in his opening remarks: really large bonuses will be offered for suggestions that effect savings; one must be on constant guard against saboteurs who are still slipping into the personnel; shortages and poor quality of substitute materials hinder progress in the conservation program; something has to be done about the enormous copper consumption of the electrical industry; much scarce metal can probably be found around plants in door mountings, door knobs, clothes hooks, lavatory bowls, fittings, etc. The general discussion which follows covers a number of technical problems encountered in overcoming shortages: use of substitute materials, standardization of parts, etc. For example, much attention is given to the use of plastics for bearings, pinions, etc.; ~~plastic~~ plastic bearings are not suitable for speeds over 600 rpm; the metallization of rollers is considered; aluminum is found to be scarcer than copper. The shortage of materials is noted as a chronic matter and not a mere transitory problem.

A list of the plants and their respective representatives is appended.

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